

REMARKS

Applicants again thank Examiner Riley for indicating that Claims 21-27 have been allowed.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended herein. Explicit support for Claim 1 as amended can be found in the specification at page 6, lines 24-26. Explicit support for Claim 11 as amended can be found in the specification at page 17, last paragraph. No new matter is added. Claims 1-27 remain in the case. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The following remarks address the issues presented in the Office Action in the order of their appearance.

Rejection of Claims 1-20 Under 35 USC §103(a) Over Bamdad et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,472,148) in view of Chee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,837,832):

This rejection is believed to have been overcome by the amendment to Claims 1 and 11.

Regarding the amendments to Claims 1 and 11, Applicants respectfully point out that the combined teaching of Bamdad et al. and Chee et al. is totally silent with respect to identifying or classifying organisms based on their nucleic acid sequence. The combined teaching of Bamdad et al. and Chee et al. is also totally silent with respect to analyzing the expression of a gene of interest to determine the timing of gene expression, the amount of gene expression, or the physiological location gene expression,

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the above amendment to Claims 1 and 11 overcomes the present rejection in major part because Claim 1 now includes a positively recited step requiring identifying or classifying the organism of interest based upon the specific hybridization detected in the claimed method. Likewise, Claim 11 now includes a positively recited step requiring determining the timing of expression of the gene of interest, the amount of the gene of interest expressed, or the physiological location of the expression of the gene of interest, based upon the sequence-specific hybridization detected in the claimed method.

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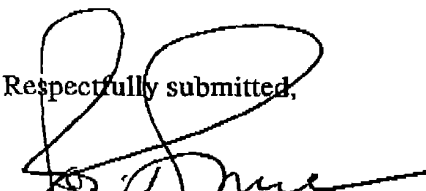
The combination of the Bamdad et al. and Chee references simply fails to address the positively recited steps in Claims 1 and 11 as amended.. The combined references neither teach the steps now positively recited in the claims, nor do the combined references contain any motivation or suggestion to use the "SPR chip" as described by Bamdad et al. in this fashion.

For these reasons, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 1-20 under §103(a) over Bamdad et al. in view of Chee et al. has been overcome. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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